(w) An inter-ministerial Task Force constituted to devise an appropriate strategy and action plan, for developing 338 identified towns, having substantial minority population, rapidly in a holistic manner submitted its report on 8th November, 2007. The concerned Ministries/Departments have been advised to give priority in the implementation of their schemes in 338 towns.

Hundred days Programme for Minorities

944. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the 100 days programme of the Ministry of Minority Affairs;

(b) in what respects it is different from previous programmes;

(c) what additional benefits would accrue to the minorities from this programme; and

(d) what special programmes and plans are being made for the welfare of the minorities for the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) This Ministry has selected five programmes/schemes, under which intermediate milestones have been laid down that are envisaged to be achieved in a time bound manner.

(c) The selected schemes aim to enable the deprived section of the population, including the minority communities, to avail of better opportunities, and create an efficient waqf administration that could generate resources for welfare of the community.

(d) The Government envisages to expand educational and economic opportunities for the disadvantaged section of the minorities through a number of existing and new schemes. A plan budgetary allocation of Rs. 1740 crores have been made for this purpose.

Promotion of Wind Power

945. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether income tax benefit is provided to promote wind power and to reduce wind tariff in the interest of general consumers;

(b) if so, how much reduction in cost per unit of generation is achieved due to this benefit;

(c) whether Government is aware that this benefit is not passed on to the consumers and if so, what corrective measures are contemplated for this purpose;

(d) whether income tax benefit to wind project is given upfront; and

(e) whether Government has fixed any norms for operating efficiency, in long term, for wind power and if so, whether monitoring of compliance with the norms is done or not?